

Town of Hampton



*Department of Resources and
Economic Development*



**Hampton Beach Area Commission
100 Winnacunnet Road
Hampton, New Hampshire 03842
Hampton Police Department Training Room
Monthly Meeting – November 19, 2015
7:00 PM**

MINUTES

In Attendance:

John Nyhan, Chairman, Town of Hampton Representative
Fran McMahon, Rockingham Planning Commission
Bob Preston, Hampton Chamber of Commerce
Bill Watson, Vice Chairman-NH Department of Transportation
Michael Housman, DRED Operations Supervisor
Chuck Rage, Hampton Beach Village District
Rick Griffin, Town of Hampton Representative
Robert Ladd, Hampton Beach Village District

Excused: Dean Merrill

Absent: 0

Other: Jason Bachand, Town Planner
Anne Marchand, Secretary

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m.

Pledge of Allegiance.

Introduction of Commissioners.

Public Comments related to Agenda Items. No public comment

Appointments. Victoria Sheehan, NHDOT Commissioner.

Mr. Nyhan introduced the HBAC Commissioners to Victoria Sheehan, NHDOT Commissioner. Ms. Sheehan provided a brief review of her background noting she is from Ireland, schooled in Scotland, and came into the construction and transportation business due to her father's occupation.

She has been in the United States for 13 years and stated she worked for and developed a budget for the MASSDOT, as well as being a Program Manager for bridge restorations. Eventually she moved to project development as a resident engineer, then onto the management side.

Ms. Sheehan has been at NHDOT as Commissioner for one month. She noted that coming together is a beginning, and teamwork and partnership can bring success. She stated she is trying to meet with communities to understand what is important as well as to understand projects and priorities. She acknowledged Mr. Watson and his work with the HBAC, noting that he is a valued member of the team and enables a partnership to be ongoing between HBAC and NHDOT.

The Commissioners then stated what they feel the role NHDOT will play with the HBAC.

Mr. Preston stated that he was glad Ms. Sheehan had a chance to take a good look at Ocean Boulevard as a priority, going down to Boar's Head. This, he said will go a long way in helping to raise room and meal taxes. Ocean Boulevard is the priority.

Mr. Housman stated that, while working with the State Park, he has developed a good relationship with NHDOT, that the partnership is working; and, he looks forward to continuing on this path.

Mr. Rage commented that the Ocean Boulevard project should go all the way to Winnacunnet Road, and he is glad to work with NHDOT getting things accomplished.

Mr. Ladd stated he echoes the statement that Ocean Boulevard is a focus of effort and recommends giving consideration to the west/town side of Ocean Boulevard.

Mr. McMahon noted that there is a need for cooperation and partnerships. Further the beach is a complicated area and DRED, NHDOT, Town, State, and Legislature need to work together. He told Ms. Sheehan it is nice to have her here as we need help.

Mr. Griffin also echoed the opinions of the others, and commented that Mr. Watson does a great job with his efforts. He stated that the focus point is Ocean Boulevard and believes the project should go to Winnacunnet Road. He also noted that, as a part of the other Master Plan, studies were considered to High Street. Further, he has lived on Ocean Boulevard at Boar's Head for many years and there are a lot of issues which are important to people who live there. He pointed out that the State is in charge, not the Town. Everyone needs to make an effort as it is a nice place to live.

Mr. Nyhan stated that Senator Stiles coordinated meetings for Commissioner Sheehan with Town officials, then on to TEC Engineering, and a view of D and C Streets to emphasize what Ocean Boulevard represents. He noted that Ocean Boulevard is a most important part of the infrastructure including roads, redevelopment, sidewalks, and drainage. The HBAC has worked hard over the past few years and has become patient in watching how things move.

He explained that the first component of the original Master Plan studied was transportation, after the development of the State Park. Private industry came in and constructed and rebuilt. It is important to have support and team work from the State as there are a number of things happening with regard to transportation. The HBAC is working with a Grant with VHB (Gordon Leedy) and have made progress. There is still a lot of work to do including revisiting the Master Plan from 2002 and focus on all transportation recommendations from that time noting which have been done, which should stay, and which should be taken out of the Plan. It is expected that in early 2016, the first phase will be complete and necessary recommendations will be presented for adoption.

Mr. Nyhan also commented there are other pieces of the Master Plan that should be studied. There is currently \$150,000 left in the grant and there should be priorities as how the money could be applied while working with NHDOT. He reviewed the process over the past years including meeting with Federal Highway to redo Ocean Boulevard. This project was not funded at the time because it was not a part of the Ten Year Transportation Plan. A step was taken back and with new understanding of the Ten Year Plan, and Ocean Boulevard is now a part of the Plan. There is a need to move forward and continue to advocate the plan looking towards construction money. The HBAC is moving forward to make sure everyone is working toward the same goals, while needing continued support of the Town and the State. The role of the HBAC is critical in that the Commission was established to advise and consult with the Town and State.

Mr. Griffin stated that the Town of Hampton wants the plan to work and, although there has been adversity, the HBAC has always looked forward.

It was noted that Commissioner Sheehan getting out and talking with people, specifically this Commission helps with the decision making. Also reviewing comments from hearings, etc., will help move the Ten Year Plan forward which is good for all entities.

Mr. Nyhan thanked Commissioner Sheehan for attending the meeting this evening after the long day's agenda in Hampton.

Appointments. Senator Stiles – Coastal Flooding Summit

Senator Stiles commented on the above Ten Year Plan stating that there may be other money and, further, the Plan will go before her Committee.

Senator Stiles then reported on the Coastal Flooding Summit which she hosted in Hampton along with Representatives Rice and Cushing, commenting there are \$64 billion of property values on the seacoast. These properties have flooding risks.

Further, the National Conference had representatives of 18 of the 23 coastal states including Hawaii. Governors from other States as well as representatives of NOAA, elected officials and various scientists were also in attendance. FEMA and Army Corps of Engineers were all involved and also present was a retired Navy Admiral who spoke of change in water temperatures, the jet stream, and related topics. Local Hampton fishermen who deal with these issues every day were also involved. Senator Stiles stated that one must talk with the people on the job, and doing the job every day, to find out what is happening.

Senator Stiles will make available the Power Point presentation that was given at the Summit. She noted that the Federal Government needs to address issues that affect different states. The questions arise as to what the responsibilities are of the Federal, State, and Local governments, as well as individuals, when building on coastal properties.

Further, Senator Stiles stated that the Summit was a good session. A lot was accomplished and a lot of issues being faced by all participants were heard. . Participating from the Hampton Board of Selectmen were Selectman Waddell and Selectman Bridle

Mr. Nyhan asked if there are further tasks, and Senator Stiles commented that the Federal component involved in the Summit will get back to the participants.

Mr. Griffin commented that it is important to find how the issues affect people here and one needs to make sure that New Hampshire is bearing the risks of what we have. He also noted the how alarming it is with regard to the increase in flood insurance. Senator Stiles stated that FEMA has a list of what communities can do with regard to the insurance issues.

Mr. Rage spoke to all insurances required on the beach, not just flood insurance. The seacoast pays extra and cannot get “standard” insurances but must get high-risk insurance. Senator Stiles said she will speak with the Insurance Commission within the next week.

Mr. Nyhan thanked Senator Stiles for being here this evening, as well as for her continued support and encouragement.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES.

MOTION: It was moved by Mr. Watson, Seconded by Mr. McMahon to approve the Minutes of the October 22, 2015 Meeting as presented.

VOTE: 8 in favor, 1 Excused

MOTION PASSED

CHAIRMAN’S REPORT.

Mr. Nyhan reported on the meeting with State Parks noting that he shared with them the effort to put forth a proposal for the Capital Budget in 2017 for the South Beach component. This piece was not funded when the State Park Project was completed. The State Agencies have only until April 2016 to submit projects and proposals. This task will be put on the HBAC January Agenda for discussion and recommendations that the State Parks consider the requests as a priority. Mr. Housman stated there are also other projects dealing with the State Parks including bathrooms, the maintenance building, etc.

TREASURER’S REPORT:

Mr. Housman reported there is a balance \$15,839.49. He noted that \$4000 of the balance will be used to pay the invoice to the Town for the Traffic Flow Project, leaving a balance of \$11,839.42.

MOTION: It was moved by Mr. Rage, seconded by Mr. Griffin to accept the Treasurer’s Report as presented.

VOTE: 8 in favor, 1 excused.

MOTION PASSED

OLD BUSINESS:

Transportation Grant recent meeting update.

- a. **Additional public comments.** No additional public comments
- b. **Hampton BOS comments.** Mr. Griffin reported that Mr. Nyhan went before the BOS and spoke of the Ten Year Transportation Plan in order to get input from members of the BOS. He further stated that it is good to be able to give publicity to the HBAC, emphasizing that is not too late to submit requests and input. Mr. Griffin stated that he has spoken to a lot of people encouraging them to attend the next VIS workshop presentation. He also feels it is important for the BOS to make sure Hampton moves forward.
- c. **Meeting Requests.** Mr. Watson spoke about the meeting on December 2nd with Mr. Rose, Project Manager; VHB; and Town staff including fire, police and DPW. The purpose of this meeting is to collect thoughts from those departments. The meetings are of critical importance, and Mr. Watson feels the meeting would be best in an informal setting, other than a public meeting at this point in time. After the meeting with

Town staff, the Commission will continue to reach out to the public for additional input. The meeting with Town staff will be held on December 2nd at 1 pm in the Selectmen's Meeting Room.

- d. **Project scope expansion request.** Mr. Watson said the scope and fee are being worked on with VHB in regard to expanding the area to Winnacunnet Road. Conversation should be held with Mr. Rose and VHB. He noted it is necessary to make sure, with the expanded scope and additional spending, the funding is used for things we want to see.
- e. **Next Steps.** Mr. Watson stated that additional opportunities will be given for public input. The goal is to have VHB back with the HBAC at the February 2016 meeting to present, for adoption, those concepts that make the most sense for Hampton. Following agreement and adoption, those recommendations will be taken to the BOS, after which the Design and Implementation process will begin. On question of Mr. Nyhan, Mr. Watson said that VHB will do the editing of the Master Plan.

2. State Parks Public Hearing Update. Mr. Housman

Mr Housman spoke about the State Parks Bi-Annual meeting on October 27th. He said it was a good meeting with about 20 people in attendance. Feedback was received by Brian Wilson and staff. Mr. Wilson talked about facts and challenges that DRED has ongoing. He also spoke of the continuing improvements along South Beach. Mr. Houseman also reported that 147 tons of trash was removed; the Lifeguards had a successful summer; that there were 345 lost children, 230 water rescues; 1600 alcohol violations; as well as first aid. The Lifeguards and staff are proud of their achievements at the competition this summer. Mr. Housman concluded by saying that State Parks will follow up on items that came through during the back-and-forth discussion.

3. Other old business.

- a.. Mr Rage reported he met with Brad Stevens, Coastal Transportation, who will get back to Mr Rage with suggestions for connecting Hampton Beach to the Town, as well as with Portsmouth.
- b. Mr. Watson stated that Councilor Sununu has indicated Ocean Boulevard is one of three priorities on the Ten Year Plan and suggested the HBAC look for \$1 to \$2 million to be used as an offset. There will be a meeting on November 30th to present scenarios, then the Ten-Year Plan will be voted, after which it will go the Legislature and Governor.

NEW BUSINESS:

- 1. Site Review – Mr. Nyhan reported that he, Mr. Preston, and Mr. Rage, at the request of Attorney Ells, reviewed the remodel/rebuild project at Highland and Ocean Avenues. A few suggestions were made regarding the plans and it was agreed that a letter in support of this project will be provided to the Planning Board, in that there are no objections.
- 2. There will be no HBAC Meeting in December; however, if an issue arises that cannot be delayed until January, a Special Meeting will be called.

THE NEXT MEETING WILL BE HELD on THURSDAY, JANUARY 28, 2016.

ADJOURN: It was moved by Mr. Preston, Seconded by Mr. Watson to adjourn the meeting at 8:02 p.m.
MOTION PASSED

**Respectfully submitted,
Anne Marchand, Secretary**

